

needs to protect the welfare of its citizens and by that I mean low taxes that are not crushing small business and forcing Corporations to locate to other places like China and Japan because it is cheaper there, and a dissolution of the current welfare state which would put millions of American back to work if they no longer receive a monthly check for not being productive. The government needs to defend the rights of all its citizens by preventing foreign nations from infringing on our rights or any companies and agencies from infringing on our rights. The government also needs to stimulate the economy by providing a workplace that will foster economic growth in the private sector and not continually grow the bureaucracies in the public sector wasting the revenues generated by its citizens. Additionally, the government needs to step back and change its role in the healthcare system it should not waste taxpayer's dollars providing for other people's healthcare, which is that individual's choice not to be insured by the government. The government shouldn't waste money on useless agencies that can be easily cut down such as the EPA, the IRS, the USDA and many other branches that are full to the brim with useless employees wasting the American taxpayer's money. The American government's job is to protect the American citizens and their welfare. This does not include regulating major economic industries, driving companies and small businesses out of business and out of America, infringing on American's God-given rights and becoming a major player in an American citizen's life.

HONORING CAPTAIN LAWRENCE R. VASQUEZ

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Captain Lawrence R. Vasquez, Installation Commander of Naval Base Ventura County, on the special occasion of his Change of Command.

Since February 2012, Captain Vasquez has been recognized for his outstanding leadership and service as Commanding Officer of Naval Base Ventura County. His exemplary tour as the senior ranking officer in charge has been marked with distinction and remarkable success.

Under his dedicated command, Naval Base Ventura County became the first and to date only military installation to operate manned and unmanned aerial systems in FAA-controlled airspace. Naval Base Ventura County is also the only Navy installation tapped to support the Department of Health and Human Service's mission to house and process unaccompanied minors apprehended crossing the border into the United States.

During the Springs Fire of May 2013, Captain Vasquez's exceptional leadership enabled a joint city, county, and federal response to the fast-moving blaze, which threatened homes, California State University Channel Islands, and valuable military assets near the Pacific Coast Highway in Ventura County.

Captain Vasquez has been a staunch supporter of community engagement, personally participating in over 250 public meetings, and hosting tours and events to bring a better understanding of the Navy's mission and better

collaboration among community partners, including government organizations, schools and business entities.

Captain Vasquez is the embodiment of an extensive and distinguished career of service to our country in the United States Navy. As a Naval aviator with over 26 years of commendable service, Captain Vasquez led a 12-aircraft helicopter squadron, the HSL-45 "Wolfpack." Additionally, he served as the Flag Aide to Commander of the Naval Coordinator Mid-South Region, as well as personal administrative aide to the Secretary of the Navy.

Captain Vasquez is recognized for his outstanding leadership and served as Commander of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Farah, Afghanistan, a joint military and civilian team charged with extending the reach of the government in Afghanistan through reconstruction, development, governance, and security.

Captain Vasquez's exemplary work has earned him numerous accolades and awards to include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and the Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action ribbon and various unit and campaign awards. Additionally, he was awarded the 2004 League of United Latin American Citizens' (LULAC) "Excellence in Military Service" award.

Captain Vasquez's remarkable career and many accomplishments are indicative of his unwavering commitment and dedication to his country and community. As he embarks on a new chapter in his career as the Chief of Staff for the Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia in Naples, Italy, I want to express my sincere appreciation for Captain Vasquez's honorable and selfless service to our community and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

CIERAH KELLEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cierah Kelley for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cierah Kelley is an 8th grader at Arvada K-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cierah Kelley is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cierah Kelley for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

THE PRESERVATION OF ANTIBIOTICS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT ACT OF 2015—H.R. 1552

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I have introduced H.R. 1552, the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act of 2015. This legislation would preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics by ending the unnecessary non-therapeutic uses of antibiotics in healthy food-animals.

The discovery of antibiotics literally transformed modern medicine, but their effectiveness is now being threatened by the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Recently the World Health Organization warned that the crisis is "so serious that it threatens the achievements of modern medicine."

Already the CDC has told us that these superbugs cause two million infections and kill at least twenty-three thousand Americans every year. We spend twenty- to thirty-five billion dollars fighting these infections—sometimes in vain, as there are now strains of bacteria which have become completely untreatable. The scale of this problem worldwide is truly staggering—each year, seven hundred thousand people die unnecessarily and the global cost could be as high as \$1.2 trillion.

Unfortunately this problem is our own doing. Despite warnings from the very scientists who discovered antibiotics we have utterly failed to use them wisely. Overuse in medicine and rampant misuse in food-animal production has caused widespread resistance and led to the current crisis.

Food-animal production currently uses 80% of all antibiotics sold in the U.S. The majority of these are routinely given to healthy animals for "growth promotion" or "disease prevention." These non-therapeutic uses are not only unnecessary, but they also create the perfect environment for bacteria to evolve resistance, resulting in antibiotic resistant superbugs. Right now, we are allowing the greatest medical advancement of the 20th century to be frittered away, in part because it's cheaper for factory farms to feed these critical drugs to animals rather than fix the stressful, overcrowded or unsanitary conditions which allow disease to spread.

By the 1970's the dangers of misusing antibiotics in food-animals were well known and in 1977 the Food and Drug Administration sought to end sub-therapeutic uses of penicillin and tetracycline in food-animals. However, no substantive action was ever taken, antibiotic use has steadily increased and the problem is now worse than ever.

The FDA's recent decision to ask pharmaceutical companies to voluntarily remove "growth promotion" uses from drug labels is an inadequate response which fails to address routine non-therapeutic uses, often called the disease prevention loophole. A recent analysis by the PEW Charitable Trust clearly shows that this loophole can be exploited as many drugs have overlapping approvals for disease prevention and growth promotion and can be given to animals with no limit on the duration of use.

The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act would phase out the use of the